(b) Ministry of Tourism through its Incredible India Campaign promotes the entire country including Maharashtra. Information on Maharashtra (including Vidharba) has been posted on the official website of the Ministry of Tourism for world wide promotion.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has been in regular touch with all the State Governments and Ministries of the Government of India to provide adequate infrastructure like budget hotels and air connectivity etc. However, law and order is a subject which falls under the purview of the concerned State/Union Territory and in order to ensure the safety and security of tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police at important tourist Centres.

Development of village tourist centres in Orissa

238. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Padmanavpur village, in Orissa which is famous for making masks used in folk dances, has been selected by the Central Government under Rural Tourism Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which are the other villages in Orissa which have been selected under the above project; and

(d) what are the details of funds that have so far been provided to the State Government under the above project for the development of village tourist centres to improve the economic position of the rural masses?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 50.00 lakh has been sanctioned for tourism related infrastructure development for Padmanavpur Village during 2006-07.

(c) and (d) The following other villages in state of Orissa have also been provided with the funds shown against each for tourism related infrastructure development and capacity building of the community during 10th five year plan.

Infrastructure Development :

(i) Rs. 50.00 lakh for Raghurajpur in 2002-03

(ii) Rs. 50.00 lakh for Pipli in 2004-05

(iii) Rs. 50.00 lakh for Khiching in 2005-06

(iv) Rs. 50.00 lakh for Barpali in 2006-07

(v) Rs. 50.00 lakh for Hirapur in 2006-07

(vi) Rs. 50.00 lakh for Deuljhari in 2006-07

Capacity Building :

(i) Rs. 20.00 lakh for Raghurajpur in 2004-05

(ii) Rs. 20.00 lakh for Pipli in 2004-05

Tourism hub in Orissa

239. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Orissa is the hub of tourism but lack of infrastructure, good hotels, tour packages, and the need to bring Orissa on the world Tourism map, have failed to attract tourists, especially from abroad; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help the State to overcome these shortcomings, to improve the economy of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Following projects have been prioritized in consultation with the State Government of Orissa for the year 2006-07: